

WRITING ASSESSMENT
Write your final composition here.

G 21a

The United States military can always use more members to help protect the country. Enlistment in the military is usually voluntary, which allows for a shortage of people at times. Should one be forced into an organization such as the military as a requirement? Mandatory, two-year enlistment in the military for men and women would have a positive effect because it would provide at least a temporary occupation. For two years, it builds character, and the government is in need of manpower for the safety of the United States.

First, being enrolled in the military provides a sure plan for one's life for at least two years. If a student is unable to obtain a job right out of college, he or she may use the two years of military service to discover a plan. ~~Even~~ If one is struggling financially, the military can help to get back up on one's feet. Housing, food, and sometimes even education are all provided. Military schools such as West Point provide a solid education and can prepare students for military life and, ultimately, life in the real world.

Secondly, the military helps to build character. For a trouble-making teenager, enlistment after school could be life-altering. The order and organization of military life ~~can~~ encourage discipline and self-respect. For someone who is involved in drug addiction, alcoholism, or other roads which may eventually lead to jail or even death, the military can save him or her. Responsibility can also be learned; when being in the military, one must take care of one's self. All in all, the military forms better people.

Finally, the government needs help from the people to protect the country. Wars cannot be fought to defend the nation without people working behind the scenes and on the front line. Without ~~the~~ protection,

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G 21b

the United States could be taken over by a more powerful country, and America could lose the freedom it fought ^{for} so valiantly. If everyone is required to enlist, then everyone will only have to serve a minute two years. The government is not asking everyone for a lifetime of commitment, but if everyone serves, then the United States can be defended by a small effort from each individual.

Mandatory, two-year enlistment in the military would have a positive effect because it would provide at least a temporary occupation for two years, it builds character, and the government is in need of manpower for the safety of the United States. Firstly, a job is provided for all who serve either temporarily or as a career choice. Next, the military can build a stronger America by creating stronger individuals. Lastly, the government needs people to help maintain the safety of the nation. Everyone should be required to serve in the military for two years to benefit the country and himself or herself.

Score Point: 6

This response reflects outstanding proficiency in persuasive writing skills. The writer strongly believes that all Americans should be required to perform two years of military service. The key ideas are specific, well developed, and clearly illustrated. Syntactic variety and facility in the use of language are displayed and sustained (if a student is unable to obtain a job right out of college, he or she may use the two years of military service to discover a plan; for a trouble-making teenager, enlistment after school could be life-altering; America could lose the freedom it fought for so valiantly). The response is well organized and a strong persuasive tone is demonstrated throughout.